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NW MISSOURIAN

CONVERGING CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

THURSDAY
Jan. 18, 2007 | A
V81 / N16
www.nwmissourianews.com

WEEKENDWEATHER

FRIDAY



HI 31
LO 12

SATURDAY



HI 35
LO 22

SUNDAY



HI 37
LO 23

MET THE MARK

Even though last year the Nodaway County United Way had doubts about raising their \$90,000 fall campaign goal, the agency has almost raised the money.

The total to date is \$88,207, which will go toward helping 16 county social service agencies. Check out next week's *Missourian* for a full story on their accomplishment and the scheduled appreciation banquet.

THURSDAY

Last day to receive 50 percent refund for first-block drop or withdrawal.

Last date to place first-block course on pass/fail or audit.

FRIDAY

Mandatory meeting for all fall 2007 student teachers, 3:30 p.m., Union Boardroom.

SATURDAY

Missouri Academy Preview Day.

Four-State Honor Music Festival.

Women's and men's basketball at Central, Warrensburg

MONDAY

Sigma Alpha spring recruitment

Intramural dodgeball begins, 6:30 p.m. Student Rec Center

WEDNESDAY

Intramural 5-on-5 basketball entries close and meeting, 4 p.m.

Women's and men's basketball at Emporia, Kan.

HEARTLAND VIEW

The new Heartland View Web site is up and running. Check it out at Heartlandview.com

KNWT CHANNEL 8 PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

Monday-Thursday
7 p.m. Etc.
7:30 p.m. Inside Northwest
8 p.m. Bearcat Update

www.nwmissourianews.com

Visit the web for:

The final results of the Bearcat Idol competition, who you picked to win online and who actually took home the title of Bearcat Idol Thursday following the show.

—COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY V. STATE OF MISSOURI

Lawsuit targets school funding

By Jessica Schmidt
Managing Editor

Whether or not Missouri public school students are getting a fair shot at a quality education is the question that's come to head in Jefferson City, Mo., in the past week.

Since the lawsuit was filed in January 2004, 260 school districts have filed against the state of Missouri. The districts argue the state is not spending enough on public education and the money is unfairly distributed.

The trial officially opened Wednesday, Jan. 3, in Jefferson City. Locally, Worth County R-III, Lathrop R-II and North Platte R-I school districts are all involved with the lawsuit.

To help extinguish the lawsuit, the Missouri Legislature passed a

new funding formula in 2005 that focused on how much is spent on each student. The former attempted to compensate for the differences between rich and poor districts.

This year Missouri's budget includes about \$2.7 billion in state aid for the 524 public school districts, according to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Missouri's constitutional requirement on funding is the state must spend one-fourth of its revenue on education. The attorney general's office maintains the state has met the requirement according to *Associated Press* reports.

Attorney Alex Bartlett, who is leading the Missouri suit, told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* his goal was

to have the state's school funding system ruled unconstitutional.

Maryville R-II School District Superintendent Vickie Miller said the new funding formula implemented in 2005 had a minimal impact on the Maryville district.

"We qualify as a 'hold harmless' district so the new formula really doesn't affect us," Miller said. "I'm sure there are dollars of difference but for the most part there's been little change."

One of the districts involved with the suit since 2004, Worth County R-III, is currently 44 to 45 percent state funded, said Superintendent Linda Gray Smith.

"We have 369 students in our

see **LAWSUIT** on A6



JOE ALLEY, a teacher with the Maryville Middle School for about two years, checks his schedule while overseeing a fifth-grade keyboarding class.

—MONTGOMERY TRIAL

Faded memories?



(above) BOBBIE JO Stinnett, 23, was found dead by her mother in her Skidmore, Mo. home December 2004. After searching the Stinnetts' computer, authorities found e-mail messages that led them to the residence of Lisa Montgomery in Melvern, Kan.

With the Montgomery murder trial set to begin, memories of the tragedy flood local residents

By Whitney Keyes
Chief Reporter

Two years may be enough time to regain the peaceful atmosphere of a town, or to lose some of the anger, but it hasn't caused Skidmore residents to forget the story of Bobbi Jo Stinnett and her unborn child.

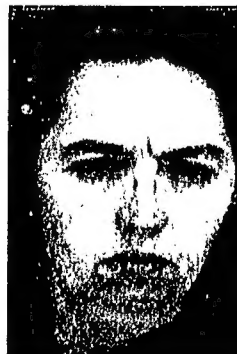
Now, the story is being refreshed in the minds of residents, as the Lisa Montgomery trial date has been set for April 30.

Montgomery is being accused of enter-

ing the Stinnett residence using the name Darlene Fischer, to discuss the purchase of a dog. However, once inside, Montgomery allegedly strangled Stinnett and then proceeded to cut an eight-month-old fetus from her womb. Montgomery then headed to her hometown of Melvern Kan., with the child, claiming it as her own.

The next day, the infant was returned to her father, Zeb Stinnett. Named Victoria Jo, she has been living with her

see **MONTGOMERY** on A6



Lisa Montgomery



photo courtesy mel campus

—POLITICS

Hubbard heads education proposal

By Kristin Summers
University Editor

Out of 90 percent of high school students who show a desire to go to college, 41 percent will never receive a two or four year degree.

After reading this statistic and others in the "From High School To College" book, Northwest President Dean Hubbard found inspiration for a model to help prepare high school

students for college.

Reasons for the declining numbers can be linked to K-12 students not knowing what to expect when they enter college and students assuming they don't need to prepare for success in college, according to research from the

"Bridge Project", a six-year national

research project that was launched in 1997.

Vickie Miller, superintendent of Maryville R-II School District; Max Ruhl, dean of the college of education and human services and Hubbard created the proposal based on this and previous research.

positional based on this and previous research.

The proposal, which Hubbard titles, "Building Bridges," has several objectives. One objective is to align grades K-12 academic standards with first-year courses at Northwest.

Another objective is to work with high school freshmen and their parents to help them figure out what they need to do to get accepted into

see **PROPOSAL** on A6

—COMMUNITY NEWS

Aquila neglects paying taxes

Auditor finds that franchise taxes are not being paid

By Andrea James
Chief Reporter

Regional energy provider Aquila, Inc., has failed to pay franchise taxes to the City of Maryville for at least the last five years, according to an auditor's report.

After a review of a projection sample, Taxfinders found that Aquila did not collect franchise tax from their largest companies and did not pay that tax to the city, Ray Carter, auditor for Taxfinders, said.

Maryville officials hired Taxfinders in March 2006 to perform an audit of all the franchise fees that the city applies to utility companies, City Manager Mike Rietz said. Ray Carter is performing the audit.

Taxfinders is a Kansas based company that focuses on utility tax reviews, reverse audits, audit defense and franchise fee audits, according to Taxfinders.com. Carter has worked at Taxfinders for over two years.

Taxfinders used a projection sample of a five-year period to perform the audit.

"One thing he (Carter) has found so far is that Aquila was collecting franchise tax on all its customers except for the industrial customers," Rietz said.

It is estimated that Aquila has failed to charge its industrial customers approximately \$687,000 over the past five years on the franchise tax, Carter said. He also said that approximately an additional \$700,000 would be charged in penalties.

Carter adds there is an additional interest that will be charged onto the taxes.

"It's hard to say how much the actual amount is because we have only taken a projection sample. Aquila has made comments to the city that they have been doing this for the past 25 to 30 years," Carter said.

Franchise tax is used to support general operations throughout the City, Rietz said. It is based on the amount of shares and surplus a company holds, according to MissouriBusiness.net.

see **AQUILA** on A6

CAMPUSBRIEFS

'Wonderful Town' appears as Encore presentation

"Wonderful Town," a revival of the 1950s musical scored by American composer Leonard Bernstein, is coming to campus as part of Northwest's Encore performing arts series. The production is based on a collection of short stories about two sisters moving to New York City. "Wonderful Town" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25, in the Mary Linn Performing Arts Center. Orchestra seats cost \$25 and balcony seats cost \$23.

Tickets can be purchased at the Student Services Center in the Administration Building, by phone at 562-1212 or online at nwmissourianews.com.

KXCV/KRNW raising funds through donated vehicles

KXCV/KRNW started a vehicle donation program mid-December allowing listeners to receive a federal income tax break when they donate a vehicle. The station is working with Charitable Auto Resources, which helps not-for-profit organizations raise money.

Anyone interested in donating a vehicle can call toll-free (877) 592-8576, or send an e-mail to donations@charitableautorresources.com to find out more information about car qualifications.

Vehicles donated will be towed and auctioned off, with money raised from the auction going to KXCV/KRNW. The amount of money the vehicle is sold for will go to the person who donated the vehicle to be used for a tax deduction. For more information, go to the KXCV/KRNW Web site at kxcv.org.

Advertising agency presents \$1,000 scholarship

Nicholson Kovac, an advertising agency in Kansas City, will be at Northwest to give a \$1,000 scholarship to a student.

The scholarship winner was selected by Nicholson Kovac and will also get an interview for an internship with the agency. Representatives from Nicholson Kovac, Brent Steffens and Stacy Jo Vidotto, will speak and present the scholarship.

The event will be at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Station. Check out nwmissourianews.com Thursday night to see who won.

MLK activities rescheduled due to harsh winter weather

All activities for Martin Luther King Jr. were canceled Sunday, Jan. 14, and Monday, Jan. 15. Sunday's Celebration of the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. has been rescheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, in the Mary Linn Performing Arts Center. Monday's volunteer activities will be rescheduled for a later date.

CAMPUS

YOU'RE GOING TO HOLLYWOOD



BEARCAT IDOL is coming to an end with the finale at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 18, in the Mary Linn Performing Arts Center. All 13 contestants will have a minute and a half to perform, with performances by the Steppers and Towncrier. Check out nwmissourianews.com Thursday night following the competition to see who won.

Center completes transition

By Whitney Keyes
Chief Reporter

With the start of 2007, Northwest Wellness Center staff is ready to tackle problems from New Year's Resolution obstacles, to the nasty colds that thrive in the winter.

The Counseling Center has finished its move into the building that was once that Health Center. Now, the building will be called the Wellness Center, and houses both the Health Center for physical ailments, and also the Counseling Center for mental health issues.

Northwest's Director of Outreach Sandra Eckert-Stewart is also the Liberty Center's director.

"The second cohort starts in September with each group being in the 20-30 range," Jelavich said.

The deadline to enroll for the second session is July 1. For more information, contact Becky Smith at (660) 562-1277 or go to nwmissourianews.com.

By joining the two forces, she hopes to send the message that health is holistic.

"That means that being healthy involves mind, body and spirit and each impacts the other elements," said Virginia Murr, director of wellness and assistant director of health services. "The mind cannot function well if the physical body is not well."

The two services have been working together for quite some time, but did not share a location. The Counseling Center was previously located in Wells Hall.

The new center will include not only the Health and the Counseling centers, but also be home to projects such as the Suicide Prevention Program, The Lighthouse Project, Peer Education and Vocational Rehabilitation. It will also offer tests

such as the PRAXIS and C-BASE, said Elizabeth Wood, director of counseling services.

Though there is a new building, and some new goals for the staff, the main idea is the same. Wood said students will still be treated with the highest care and professionalism.

"We are still in the process of settling in and streamlining procedures to ensure confidentiality, efficiency and an overall respectful experience for students," Wood said.

The Center is planning on both a ribbon cutting ceremony and an open house, neither of which are scheduled yet. However, taking care of Northwest students is the main concern, and now improved, thanks to "coordination of services to more comprehensively respond to student concerns," Wood said.

Leadership Development Series continues to help Northwest students

By Dominic Genetti
Senior Reporter

Northwest's Campus Activities office is giving students an opportunity to increase their knowledge outside the classroom.

Throughout the 2007 spring trimester the office has organized several speakers to talk with students as part of the Leadership Development Series.

The program is lead by Angel McAdams Prescott and Aaron Sandine.

"This is a new endeavor for Campus Activities," director Kristen Alley said. "We've had leadership programs in the past and when I got here and Angel got here we were asked to take a look at our leadership series and how we can revamp it and really build on the past success and make it even better and develop more outreach opportunities for our students."

The series began Jan. 16 and continues until April 17. Alley said the development for the Leadership Development Series began this school year.

"We weren't sure if we were going to have a budget to work with this year," Alley said.

After all is said and done for this year's series plans will be in the make for next year.

"This is really a trial run," Alley said. "We're seeing how things are going. This is a fluid program. We're willing to adapt to meet the needs of the students."

Nonetheless, improving the series is a goal.

"We're going to build it," Alley said. "We're going to see what happens and we're going to mobilize and continue to work on it."

One more session remains for the Leadership Development Series

in January. "Communication skills" will be presented by Julie Sealine on Jan. 30.

Three sessions will take place in both February and March and two sessions take place in April. Speakers for February include Linda Nash. "Opportunity Knocks are You Prepared to Open the Door?," Joan Schneider, "How to Develop your Leadership Skills on a Resume," and David Sandy, "The Magic of Character."

In March, Max Fridell will speak about "Motivation," along with Bill Bateman who will be giving a presentation called "Living Life through a Sauerkraut Pizza" and William Hedge will speak about "Diversity Training." April brings Becky Hendrix and Alisha Francis speaking on "Elections and Officer Training" and Rhea Vetter speaking on "Stress management and relaxation training."

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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITYBRIEFS

Missouri Health Department warns against spoiled food

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is warning people of the dangers of spoiled food after power outages.

The DHSS warns bacteria can grow on refrigerated and frozen food if the power to a home has been lost. The DHSS urges people to throw away any food that might be contaminated after power outages.

Essay contest open to high school juniors, seniors

The Maryville Optimist Club is holding an essay-writing contest for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors under the age of 19.

The club will pick the top three finalists with the first place finalist moving on to the district competition. At the district level, a \$650 scholarship will be awarded to the first-place winner, who then moves on to the International Essay Contest. There the scholarship grows to \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 for the first, second and third place winners respectively.

The topic for the essay is "I Want to Make a Difference Because..." Entries must be submitted by Feb. 5.

For more information on the contest contact Sue Durand at (660) 582-5059 or Vickie Miller at (660) 582-4803.

Lager receives Senate committee assignments

State legislative committee assignments have been assigned. Twelfth-District Sen. Brad Lager was assigned to the Commerce, Energy and Environment Committee; the Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee; Senate Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Natural Resources Committee; the Financial, Governmental Organizations and Elections Committee; and the Ways and Means Committee.

To contact Sen. Lager, call the Capitol at (573) 751-1415 or e-mail him at brad.lager@senate.mo.gov.

FLURRIES OF FUN



TYLER COVERDELL, 15, has a little fun in the snow in his front yard while his father, Ron, clears the driveway of snow on Monday morning.

NEW BUSINESS

New restaurant replaces Julio's

Las Palma's fills vacant building

By Jared Bailey
Missourian Reporter

For those heartbroken by the loss of Julio's, a new establishment is now serving plenty of Hispanic cuisine.

Las Palma's, a Mexican restaurant located on 2805 S. Main, opened Jan. 9.

The restaurant has an approximately 250-person banquet hall with room for about 200 more in the rest of the building. The menu has salads, soups, tacos, burritos, enchiladas and a salsa bar for those who wish to pick out sauces themselves.

This is the second Las Palma's started by owner Rick Palma. The original is in St. Joseph and has been in operation since April 1995.

"We're excited to be in Maryville, and we have all our loyal customers who traveled to St. Joseph," manager Chris Hamlin said.

What keeps them hooked? Perhaps it is the authenticity of the dishes. Palma and his family are Hispanic, and thus, the meals are



ERYN WALTERS and Kara Pivral share a laugh while at dinner Tuesday night at the new Mexican restaurant in town, Las Palma's. The girls joined other friends at the restaurant for a birthday celebration.

all of their recipes. "One of the advantages with being third generation Hispanic would be that we have all the original family recipes, and in the future, we can do a lot of different things with the menu," Palma said.

There are those who are already enjoying this new option in dining.

"A for amazing," customer Kayla Warner said. "The cheese sauce is good. I liked it better than La Bonita."

Yet not everyone agrees with

Warner's analysis of Las Palma's. "I don't care for what they do with their fajitas," customer William Farano said. "They cheapen some of their dishes."

La Bonita happens to be next door to Las Palma's.

Palma would have preferred a different location, however, the building was the only thing that was available and that could accommodate all of the restaurant's needs.

Employees at La Bonita did not wish to comment on the new competition.

Memories strong year after house explodes

By Dominic Genetti
Senior Reporter

As he arrived home from work that evening, Norman Hall, 64, was approached by his wife Fonda who told him, "The worst possible thing has happened."

The house at 123 S. Alco. Ave. suddenly exploded due to a gas leak killing his mother Lois Hall and his brother, Carroll. His brother Donald was the only survivor.

Just over a year since the Jan. 11 explosion, Norman reflected on his experience and his brother's recovery.

"It hit me like a ton of bricks," Hall said.

Donald was airlifted to the burn unit at the University of Kansas Medical Center immediately after emergency crews arrived.

Norman met up with his brother at the hospital.

"I just had to go down to Kansas City to be with Donald," Norman said. "When I saw him in the emergency room, I knew he was going to make it."

Eventually making his way to Maryville, Norman originally did not wish to see the damage to his mother's house, but his wife later convinced him.

"I wish I hadn't," he said. "I was crying a lot. I was just set to shock."

Hall spoke of the house and his mother's large collection of antiques.

Over the next year, Norman and his sister Margaret Thomas have assisted Donald in recovering from his injuries.

"I just want to put it all behind me," Donald said.

Today Donald lives on his own in West Des Moines. He is now able to work and drive a car.

To this day, neighbors and local citizens continue to have a vivid memory of the events.

Maryville fireman Phil Rickabaugh recalls the night well.

"First time I've ever seen anything like that in my 20-year career," Rickabaugh said. "I was off duty at home, and like most of my house, I could see a glow in the sky, and I knew at that point that I would probably be on a scene somewhere."

Broken glass landed in resident Edith George's yard that sits at the corner of South Alco and First Street.

"I thought a bomb had gone off," George said.

Just across the street, Jason Barbosa was sitting at home with his sister and brother-in-law. The two had just returned from the Northwest women's basketball game earlier that evening.

"All of a sudden we heard a

loud boom," Barbosa said.

Barbosa and his brother-in-law ran to the scene with other neighbors. There they found Donald crawling out from the debris.

Barbosa remembers asking Donald, who was conscious at the time, the whereabouts of his mother and brother.

"The only thing he said was, 'They're dead,'" Barbosa said.

While the events were occurring the Northwest men's basketball team was playing rival Missouri Western State University at nearby Bearcat Arena.

Northwest Sports Information Director Chad Waller recalls the events from the press box.

"I was sitting up here doing my regular game day stuff on the computer and just felt vibration," Waller said. "A couple of minutes later, I smelled something burning. You couldn't see it at all, I just could smell it, a very vague, faint smell, but then it got a little stronger. A couple of minutes later, we hear the public address guy say something about an explosion."

Traffic near the explosion site was backed up as winds blew smoke over the Northwest campus. Streets within the area of the explosion were blocked by Maryville Police as drivers were detained.

The lot remains empty where the Hall's house once stood.

Academy to find home in Maryville

Private Christian Academy set to open in fall 2007

By Marcus Meade
Community News Editor

Eight months is a long time. For Joanna Trueblood, and her associates, it's enough time to found a school. So last June, that's what she decided to do.

As the school's director, she's established the beginnings of the Christian Academy for Education—the newest private school in Maryville.

The academy, which is set to open in the fall, will balance academics with Bible study.

"We'll use biblical principles to basically guide the child to make respectful decisions," Trueblood said.

Balancing the teaching of academics with Bible principles can be a challenge.

"There are always some challenges, but with strong Christian faith, I think that will fall in line over time," said Coby Hayes, president of the school's board of directors.

Hayes also said that along with challenges, he's seeing some personal benefits of his involvement.

"One, some one-on-one interaction with my kid. Two, a way to incorporate some moral, godly values," Hayes said.

In its first year, the school will have a maximum of 30 students—using one paid teacher and two volunteer aids. True-

blood plans on adding a grade each year from here on but will start with grades pre-kindergarten through third.

Averaging only six kids per class, the academy plans on using some principles of the Montessori method of teaching—a method that stresses individualized learning.

The price for that individualized education is the biggest problem facing Trueblood and the school's board of directors. They've attempted to keep tuition low by volunteering their time. Tuition for the first year at the academy will be \$2,000 if paid by Aug. 1, or \$210 a month for 10 months. The academy's tuition is competitive with the St. Joseph Christian School, which charges an average of \$2,533 a year for one pre-kindergarten through third grade child, according to their Web site sjs.k12.mo.us.

Trueblood's hope is that the academy can be a school for all Christians.

"We hope to truly be a non-denominational school that truly belongs to the community as a whole," Trueblood said.

The initial application deadline is Jan. 26. For information on The Christian Academy for Education, or application information, contact Joanna Trueblood at 582-5721, or e-mail her at joanna_true@hotmail.com.

How long have you been married?



We want to know
Send us your story

The NWMISSOURIAN is compiling a list of the longest married couples in Maryville and surrounding areas.

Send stories to:

NWMISSOURIAN
Wells Hall #2
800 University Dr.
Maryville, MO 64468

or

email to: nwmissourian@hotmail.com
Deadline: Monday, February 5, 2007

we have a
room
you!
movin' on UP

New for Fall...
Choose Franken...
Private rooms, free parking,
reduced meal plan.

- \$2183 cost covers private room.
- Free parking! Residential Life will cover the cost of your permit.
- Franken Hall spaces available for men and women.
- Reduced Aladine (\$600 meal plan) option available with this package.
- Extra bed removed from room.
- And more!!!

Tower Suites

The new suite-style buildings, located near the high rise halls on the northwest corner of campus, offer more autonomy, small group socialization, greater privacy, more space and brand-new surroundings. Each room is \$2,139 per trimester (plus meal plan).

SUITE FEATURES

- two buildings with 2-bed and 4-bed units
 - each unit has its own bathroom and a living space
- EACH FLOOR INCLUDES:
- laundry room and kitchenette
 - balcony or patio
 - vending area
 - lounge and study room
 - meeting room

Northwest's upperclass housing choices reflect your needs and requests:

convenience, options and new buildings!
Begin the process by filling out the application on your CatPAWS Account on the Housing Tab!

On-campus value

Every day is a payoff when you live on campus! Just look what's included in your housing fees:

- local phone service
- voice mail, basic cable
- on-site laundry and air-conditioning
- staff (service and security)
- recreation and fitness facilities
- study rooms and computers
- light bulbs, toilet paper and cleaning supplies
- utilities and internet service
- financial aid can be applied directly to housing fees

South Complex

South Complex is centrally located to academic buildings, Owens Library, University offices, the Student Union, the Student Recreation Center and the swimming pool. Four or five rooms are grouped by gender and share a bathroom. Each room is \$2,003 per trimester (plus meal plan).

Forest Village Apartments

Some of Northwest's newer accommodations, Forest Village offers 2 and 4 person apartments. Each resident gets a private bedroom. Comes complete with kitchen, one bathroom per 2 residents, and in-room laundry facilities. Each room is \$480/month plus utilities. Parking included.

Survey says

A variety of research studies have shown that students living on campus:

- are more satisfied with their living environment
- are more satisfied with their college experience
- earn higher grades
- are less likely to drop out
- have more contacts with faculty
- have a more satisfied social life
- participate more in student activities
- have fewer emotional problems

THUMBS UP!

Whatever you're after,
just thumb through the
Classifieds and you'll
be good to go!
That's all there is to it!

NWMISSOURIAN
562-1224

—MY VIEW

SHOULD WE STAY



SHOULD WE GO?

Additional troops needed to finish what was started in Iraq

Bush needs to pull troops out to save lives and end tear shed

Accountability.

That's what Americans must understand in response to the administration's increase of troops in Iraq. When President Bush declared war almost three years ago, America had to be held responsible for those actions, through good and bad.

During this time, however, a murderous dictator has been executed, a number of terrorists have been seized, elections have been held and the Iraqis drafted a constitution. But in the end of the good times, American deaths continually pile up and the Iraqi army's conception has been a slow process.

But Bush's proposal is good for Iraq's stride towards democracy. Instead of absorbing insurgent attacks daily, the United States, joined with the Iraqi forces, can go on the offensive and stabilize the country.

This new plan has invigorated Iraqi leadership and citizens according to Amir Taheri's *New York Post* article. Taheri said Iraqis are happy the United States is not leaving and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is committed to clearing out terrorists.

However, some Americans want to leave Iraq and let them either settle their differences or become a haven for terrorists. This lack of accountability for our actions is nothing new for the United States.

Consistently since World War II, America has left countries before finishing the job. After our armed forces left Vietnam in 1973, the South Vietnamese were left to fend for themselves and suffer countless deaths as the north took over the entire nation. Although the war may not have been justified, our nation decided to pull out and let an ally suffer.

This, along with other mishaps, is rallying cries among terrorists. These murderers consistently claim America has no stomach to fight, and they want to prove that comment through

vicious attacks.

Terrorist leaders repeatedly echo a couple of those mishaps. Our troop removals in Lebanon in the early 1980s, and Somalia ("Black Hawk Down," anyone?) in the early 1990s, are two of those instances. The Lebanon conflict is strikingly similar to today's debate.

After trying to negotiate for Israel's removal from Lebanon in 1982, the United States pledged safety for the region, but an assassination escalated fighting. The United States then joined other countries and pledged to remain in the region until Lebanon's army was able to fight.

However, resentment toward America ensued and suicide bombers struck the U.S. Embassy. Despite pressure from home, America stayed and terrorists bombed a Marine barracks. The United States withdrew a few months later and Lebanon became one of the most anti-American countries in the world.

In accordance with that incident, terrorists continually attacked Americans and Hezbollah formed. Hezbollah recently attacked Israel and calls for the country's destruction.

Lebanon, teamed with Iran, are dangerous threats in the world today, and might not be if for different circumstances over 20 years ago. Iran has been said to fund terrorism in Iraq, and if we leave, then Iran may take over more land, creating more anti-American sentiment.

If the United States wants to finish this conflict, more troops are necessary. America started this war, and if we leave, the country will be left in ruins like Lebanon and Somalia. The country may also become a terrorist haven and Iraqi deaths will be countless. We need a strong Middle East ally, and Iraq can become that in the future.

If the leaders of the free world leave and don't learn from our foreign policy past, America is doomed to repeat its mistakes.



Scott Levine
Asst. Sports Editor

I have shed many tears over the course of "President" George W. Bush's term in office.

I use the term president in the loosest sense possible, because no commander-in-chief would do such hellacious things.

He is no longer my president.

When the announcement came that Bush was to be elected to a second term I hit my knees. I hit my knees and cried until I couldn't cry anymore. I couldn't understand the justice in re-electing someone who, in my opinion, had never used his presidency for anything of benefit.

Many people I love and admire shed their share of tears as well. I've sat idly, yet nauseously, by as I watched him make my high school English teacher and hero, Mike Maffin, cry when talking about what "No Child Left Behind" did to him and the rural school district I boast my education from.

I've interviewed Northwest students who wept when describing how completely alone and frightened they felt that their fathers, boyfriends and uncles were in Iraq.

I've seen the fear and tears in the eyes of soldiers about to be deployed on a mission they aren't sure they even believe in anymore.

When Hurricane Katrina hit and his administration reacted at an almost remedial and effortless pace, I watched on television as the forgotten cried over family members who maybe didn't have to die after that horrendous storm hit.

As the country demands an exit strategy from Iraq and Bush's approval rating sinks lower than any president in history, Bush does the opposite of what everyone proposes and vows to send more than 20,000 troops into Iraq, Syria and Iran.



Stephanie Stangl
Editor-in-Chief

While I am proud of him for maybe the first and only time in his presidency when he conceded that he was to blame for the—I would say proverbial black eye, but it's more like proverbial full-body beating—War in Iraq, he again has me on the brink of tears with this rash decision to risk more family member and friends' lives.

With 3,008 dead, wasn't a few more?

Keith Olbermann, MSNBC.com anchor, summed this decision up best in his Jan. 11 commentary.

"Mr. Bush, the question is no longer 'what are you thinking?' but rather 'are you thinking at all?'"

Bush, did you give second thought when you sent in troops to find weapons of mass destruction I assume you knew very well didn't even exist? No, I presume not.

It appears rational thinking is more of an afterthought for you and your administration.

I understand we are trying to stabilize the country by helping build things such as schools and hospitals.

Many proponents of the war claim that a civil war will ensue if we pull troops out at this stage in the game. But aren't people dying every day now?

Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe we need more troops fueled into a country that meets our humanitarian effort with bombs and shootings on an almost daily basis. But if I'm wrong, then are the hundreds of bi-partisan Congressmen who also oppose releasing 20,000 more troops also wrong?

How can they all be so very wrong and one man is so very right?

President Bush, let's bring our troops home. This country is so very tired of crying.

Jan. 1
Assault, ongoing investigation, 700 block N. Mulberry

Jan. 5
Possession of a controlled substance, ongoing investigation, 200 block W. Fourth

Jan. 6
Property damage, vehicle, 200 block S. Buchanan

Kristina J. Bradley, 19, Bethany, Mo., failure to appear, 400 block N. Market

Jan. 11
Fraud, ongoing investigation, 2700 block S. Main

Jan. 12
Towed vehicle, vehicle: silver 1993 Acura, 2600 block Burris Road

Jan. 13
Ongoing investigation, discharging of firearms/airguns in the city limits, 300 block S. Clayton

Jan. 14
Recovered property, street sign, Third and Depot

Jan. 15
Property damage: mailbox, 1900 block N. Alco Ave.

Daniel R. Bix, 18, Bedford, Iowa, possession of drug paraphernalia, improper registration, exceeding posted speed limit; John M. Meyer, 19, Maryville, possession of drug paraphernalia, one referred to juvenile office

ACCIDENTS

Jan. 10
Joshua J. Emery, 30, Maryville, and William M. Moberly, Liberty, Mo., collided at College Avenue and Grand Avenue.

Ashtley A. Moore, 22, Maryville, and Wyatt D. Dunbar, 27, Maryville, collided at South Avenue and Main Street.

Jan. 12
Kyle E. Rowse, 23, Burwell, Neb., collided at First and Main Street.

Jan. 13
Dana R. Sharp, 72, Maryville, collided with a parked car owned by Clayton E. Ferguson, Barnard, Mo., at 1400 N. Country Club.

Jan. 15
Douglas W. Thompson, 44, Maryville, collided with parked car owned by Dawn R. Segg, Skidmore, Mo., at 11th and Walnut.

OBITUARIES

Thelma Ellen (Lawson) Abrams, 73, Skidmore, Mo., died Monday, Jan. 15, 2007 at Fairfax Community Hospital, Fairfax, Mo. She was born Oct. 26, 1933 in Quitman, Mo., the daughter of Jessie James and Audrey (Royer) Lawson. Thelma married James Harold Abrams January 17, 1951 in Skidmore.

She was a member of the Skid-

more Christian Church and a home-maker. Thelma was preceded in death by a daughter, Shirley Ruth Jenkins; a granddaughter, Atonya Ruth Reeves and her parents.

Survivors include her husband of nearly 56 years, James H. "Jim" Abrams, of their home in Skidmore; son, Michael and his wife, Debbie Abrams, Skidmore; daughter, Lu Ann and her husband, Jerry Rowlett, Maitland, Mo.; grandchildren, Jelisa (Brad) Ross; Matt Abrams, Nathan (Samantha Vance) Abrams; Mindy (Kris) Winger and Chris Rowlett; seven great-grandchildren and two sisters, Velma Andrew of Okla. and Emma Gamble, King City, Mo.

Visitation is 1-2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19 at Price Funeral Home. Funeral Services are 2 p.m. Friday at Price Funeral Home Chapel, with burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Skidmore.

Mary Eva Poppa, 85, Maryville, died Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007, at her home.

She was born March 6, 1921 in Osceola, Mo., the daughter of Joseph and Grace (Cline) Nichols. Mary was married to Clifford Dotson, Nov. 10, 1942; survivors of this union are three daughters, Barbara (Mike) Wilson, Kansas City, and Rebecca McCarty, Maryville; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; Clifford died in July 1974.

She then married Harold Poppa Sr. May 11, 1976. Survivors of this union are six step-sons, Fred Poppa, Maryville; Harold Poppa Jr., Austin, Texas; Larry Poppa, Bedford, Iowa; Terry Poppa, Maryville; Jim Poppa, St. Joseph, Mo.; and Richard Poppa, Orlando, Fla.; two step-daughters: Mary E. Price, Ravenwood, Mo., and Anna Jones, Graham, Mo.; 32 step-grandchildren and numerous step-great-grandchildren. Harold died April 2, 2003.

Mary was a member of the First Christian Church and the Order of the Eastern Star, both of Maryville. Mary retired as administrator and office manager of the Nodaway County Health Office.

In addition to Clifford and Harold, Mary was preceded in death by her parents and a sister: Ruby (Peggy) Borchert, and Rebecca McClendon.

Additional survivors are: two sisters, Edna Barbarick, Pleasant Hill, Mo., and Betty Gagnebin, Kansas City.

Visitation was from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14 at Price Funeral Home. Funeral Services were at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 15 at Price Funeral Home Chapel, with burial in Oak Hill Cemetery, Maryville.

Memorial Funds may be made to the Nodaway County Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Earl Hale Hardy, 83, Maryville, passed away Sunday, Jan. 14, 2007 in St. Joseph, Mo., at Heartland Hospital.

Earl was born Aug. 26, 1923 in Grant City, Missouri to Milo and Floy (Coverdell) Hardy. Earl married Madge Ileana Bunker on July 18, 1945 in Troy, Kan.

Earl enlisted in the United States Army November 12, 1942. He took basic training at Camp McQuaide in Watsonville, Calif.; 6 months at Los Angeles City College and Stanford University; three months at Camp Carson, Colorado; and three months at Camp Gruber, Okla. Earl shipped overseas from Camp Shanks, New York in Nov. 1944. He landed in England and crossed the channel to LeHavre, France, and moved through Holland. Earl proudly served his country in the European Battle of the Rhine and was also involved in the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany. He returned home on the USS George Washington and landed at New York Harbor on July 4, 1945 and was honorably discharged on Dec. 15, 1945 at Camp Gordan, Ga. Corporal Earl Hardy was awarded the Bronze Star Medal by direction of President Harry S. Truman on June 2, 1945.

After discharging from the U.S. Army, Earl returned home to Grant City, Mo., where he lived with his wife Madge and family, and farmed for many years. Earl and Madge retired to Maryville in 1990 where they enjoyed visiting with their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Earl was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He took great pleasure in his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and their many accomplishments.

Earl was a member of the Grant City Baptist Church since his baptism at the age of 14.

He was a member of the American Legion John Edgar Barnes Post No. 92 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was preceded in death by his parents and older brother Milo Marion.

Survivors include his wife Madge of 61 years; his children David (Carolyn) Hardy, Grant City, Mo.; Barbara (Jim) Matteson, Bartlesville, Okla.; Karen (Frank) Ross, Ames, Iowa; Nancy (Cliff) Ensermann, Columbia, Mo.; Mike (Carolyn) Hardy, Maryville; Pat (Sue) Hardy, Grant City; Janice (Chuck) Borey, Grant City; Darla Runyon, Steve Runyon, Maryville; and James (Peggy) Hardy, Afton, Iowa.

Twenty-four grandchildren: Julia Moore, Jane Gabriel, Susan Newman, Cynthia Studer, Brian

Hardy, Joe Matteson, Zachary Ross, Jacob Ross, Brandon Ross, Jerome Starke, Jonathan Starke, Tonya Hardy, Tony Hardy, Tylor Hardy, Brett Hardy, Brad Hardy, Brad Hardy, Jared Harding, Jana Harding, Jessica Borey, Levi Runyon, Jaque Runyon, Joshua Hardy, and Elizabeth Hardy; 19 great-grandchildren; and one brother, Gene Hardy of Grant City.

Pallbearers are Brian Hardy, Zachary Ross, Jacob Ross, Jerome Starke, Tony Hardy, Tylor Hardy, Brett Hardy, Jared Harding, and Levi Runyon. Honorary pall bearers include Joe Matteson, Brandon Ross, Jonathan Starke, Tylor Hardy, Brad Hardy, and Joshua Hardy. Flower girls are Julia Moore, Jane Gabriel, Susan Newman, Cynthia Studer, Tonya Hardy, Jana Harding, Jessica Borey, Jaque Runyon, and Elizabeth Hardy.

Visitation was Wednesday evening, Jan. 17 at Andrews Funeral Home in Grant City from 7-9 p.m. Funeral services are Thursday, Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. at the Grant City Baptist Church. Leland May will be officiating. Burial will be in the Grant City Cemetery.

Flower arrangements and plants may be sent to Andrews Funeral Home in Grant City. Memorial gifts may be made payable to the Worth County Education Foundation to be designated for the Earl and Madge Hardy Education Scholarship, Rt. 3, Box 107, Grant City, Mo. 64456.

This scholarship will be in support of a graduating senior attending Northwest Missouri State University and majoring in education to continue the tradition of teaching that has been instilled in this family by their loving and supportive parents.

BIRTHANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeremy and Sureena Henggeler, Maryville, are the parents of Brylie Nicole Henggeler born Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007 at St. Francis Hospital.

Brylie weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces and joins one brother Marcus Andrew Henggeler.

Grandparents are Rick and Judy Staley, Parnell, Mo.; Raymond and Dorothy Henggeler, Raynwood, Mo.; and Teresa Wallace, Grafton, Ill.

Great-grandparents are James and Ola Womble, Ramsver, N.C.; Vinc and Anna Henggeler, Stanberry, Mo.; Karen Kimbro, Batailo, Ill.; and Delbert Morton, Hartford, Ill.

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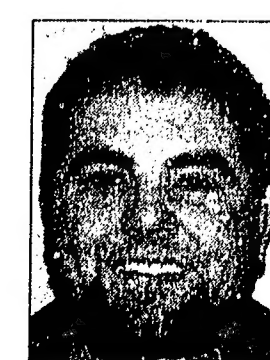
How do you feel about President Bush's plan for Iraq?



"You gotta do what you gotta do."
Ryan Ames
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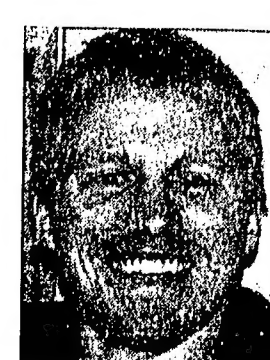
"I think it's time to bring them home. Think of all the families affected. What have we really accomplished?"
Jenna Simpson
Secondary Education



"I think it's ignorant because more U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq than the 9-11 attacks. I think we've done our business there."
Jonathan Busch
Corporate Finance



"I feel that it's unnecessary because I feel a lot of people in America are opponents of the war."
Samantha Knuckles
Business Management



"I think it's a bad decision. He doesn't realize that this is an un-winnable war."
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BRIDGES: Proposal to help high schoolers

continued from A1

college, meeting with the students yearly. Hubbard discussed the proposal at the beginning of the trimester to faculty and said he received a lot of positive feedback, with some faculty even offering to help with research, which is one of the objectives of the proposal.

"It has unbelievable potential," Hubbard said.

Even though a recent article in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* which questions whether the subject of college being repeated adds stress to high school seniors, Ruhl said the proposal would decrease the feeling of stress seniors have when deciding where to go.

On Jan. 25, Hubbard, Ruhl and Miller will go to Jefferson City and meet with state officials and two representatives of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to present the proposal and to take suggestions.

Kauffman Foundation is based in Kansas City and is the 26th largest foundation in the United States.

The foundation focuses on entrepreneurship and education. In education, they focus on improving academic achievement, particularly in Kansas City schools, according to Kauffman.org.

Though the proposal will be presented to representatives from the Kauffman Foundation, Hubbard said foundation members seem interested in working with Northwest but doesn't want to bring in any other universities to the project. Hubbard has considered bringing in Lincoln University into the project.

As of press time, the proposal did not have a budget and Miller said the proposal is open to suggestions at the meeting, so they can have every aspect possible.

"We don't have it all down on paper yet," Miller said.

Despite not having everything in the proposal, Miller hopes the proposal will eventually become a pilot for other schools and universities throughout Missouri.

FRANCHISE: Auditor discovers Aquila tax evasion

continued from A1

In Missouri, companies with less than \$1 million in total shares and surplus do not have to pay a franchise tax.

"Cities in general have this tax. The ordinance was written so the tax applies to all revenue unless specifically exempted," Carter said.

The tax will be collected on all revenue from residential, retail and commercial customers, Rietz said.

It does not specifically exempt industrial customers but Aquila has interpreted the ordinance to exclude the industrial customers.

Bob McKeon, spokesperson for Aquila, said Aquila has not been collecting franchise tax from the industrial customers. In 2001, Aquila combined with St. Joseph Light & Power's process of not collecting franchise tax from industrial customers and Aquila thought that is what the city intended

for them to do.

"Aquila is trying to work with the city to get the situation resolved," McKeon said.

The amount of money these companies give to Maryville in franchise tax is tied to their sales, Rietz said.

"That is information only they really know and we would have to audit their records on a regular basis."

"That would be really time consuming for us to do," Rietz said.

As for the rest of the companies being audited, Maryville officials know that the Empire District Electric Company is paying their franchise tax.

There isn't enough information yet to determine whether or not the phone and cable companies are paying theirs, Rietz said.

"Our auditor needs to finish his work. He is a little ways from being completed and it is something the council will be discussing over the next few meetings," Rietz said.

LAWUIT: Missouri sued by 260 school districts

continued from A1

average daily attendance so we do not qualify as a small school for funding—nor are we large enough to keep our buildings and programs going without state funds," Smith said.

Smith said it is hard for districts like Worth County to compete with suburban districts, especially when it comes to hiring first-year teachers. The new funding formula has only made things worse for the district.

"Between 2003 and 2004 we made significant budget cuts we cut \$217,000 out of the budget and we have nowhere else to

go," Smith said. "We have taken significant reductions and we've gone as low as we can go and still ensure that our kids will be successful."

Smith said she hopes the lawsuit will bring about more equity in its funding, and she would also like to see districts like hers get enough to provide access to music, athletic and other programs.

"We are just looking for it to be more fair," Smith said. "It is important that students throughout the state should be able to receive a quality education regardless of where they live."

MONTGOMERY: Trial forces residents to consider opinions on death penalty

continued from A1

father since the kidnapping.

Montgomery, though, is charged with kidnapping resulting in death. Since the infant was taken across the state line, it has been charged as a federal offense.

If convicted, Montgomery will then undergo a second phase in trial, in which jurors will decide on either life in prison, or the death penalty, according to the former prosecuting attorney for the case, Todd Graves.

"It's hard to hope anyone gets the death penalty," Skidmore resident Mitch Grossoehme said. "If she gets the death penalty though, we certainly won't be upset with the judicial system."

The Grossoehme family, who lives across from the former Stinnett house, can clearly remember the day the incident happened.

However, they claim it hasn't dramatically changed the town. They, like other Skidmore residents, believe that it could have happened anywhere, but they do hope that the trial sends "a strong message."

Don Ledford, a public affairs officer for the U.S. attorney office, has other goals for the trial. He hopes that the jury will not be swayed by the strong public perception that Montgomery is guilty.

"She does have the right to a fair trial, and we want people to keep in mind that she is innocent until proven guilty," Ledford said.

This opinion seems to be shared by another Skidmore resident, Rick Stanton, who also lives close to the former Stinnett house.

A firm believer that Skidmore is not as scary as its reputation, Stanton has not fol-



LISA MONTGOMERY went to Stinnett's house under a false identity claiming intent to purchase a dog.

lowed the trial, and said he believed in the system to do what is right, whether or not Montgomery receives the death sentence.

No matter the hopes of Skidmore residents, Montgomery's fate will be determined in April. For now though, residents are aiming to restore a positive image of Skidmore.

"It could have happened anywhere," Grossoehme said. "It's scary, but this is home."

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—FEATURE

BACK TO BOSTON



NORTHWEST ENGLISH professor Michael Hobbs runs on a treadmill during exercise this week. Hobbs recently qualified for the Boston Marathon, but won't compete this year because of his wife's pregnancy. However, he intends on competing in next year's event.

English professor finds niche with marathon competition

By Scott Levine
Asst. Sports Editor

Nobody knew his special gift — not even Michael Hobbs himself or his high school coaches.

Despite being a regional high jumper, Hobbs had a secret talent unknown to everyone else.

Hobbs discovered this long distance running ability approximately five years ago and has made the most of it. At his last race, the Cobbler Grind in Overland Park, Kan., Hobbs qualified for the Boston Marathon for the second time, finishing third place in his age group.

That is his best placing ever at an event.

"I ran in junior high, but I won the city championship in the high jump, so I went ahead and focused on that," Hobbs said. "I didn't even know what cross country was. Now I wish the coach would have insisted on cross country."

In order to qualify for the Boston Marathon in Hobbs' age group, runners must be sure it is a certified race, and run a good enough time. In Hobbs' group, ages 50-54,

the time must be at or better than three hours and 35 minutes.

"I have to run three hours and 35 minutes, and that's exactly what I ran," Hobbs said chuckling. "I didn't really try to qualify, but when I crossed I thought it might be good enough, so I checked and it was."

Because Hobbs' wife Giulio Coniglio is pregnant, he said he won't run in this year's race. However, Hobbs said officials allow a deferment for a year, so he intends on competing next year.

How it started
As an English professor at Northwest, Hobbs has seen plenty of books. However, despite reading vast volumes of books over the years, one book stands out.

Giulio bought a running book five years ago for Christmas. The book talked about running marathons and so Hobbs began to train. After training for months, Hobbs ran his first marathon in Wichita, Kan.

BYTHE NUMBERS

.004%
Actual chance of winning the Boston Marathon if participants reach the size limit of 22,500.

7,790
Actual place Hobbs achieved during his first Boston Marathon stint. He finished better than half of the 17,030 participants.

2:07.14
Boston Marathon's course record. Hobbs ran the course in 3:54.30 in 2003.

7
The amount of marathons Hobbs ran since starting approximately five years ago.

see MARATHON on B4

—NW MEN'S BASKETBALL

Impact player

Sophomore forward having breakout season

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

At the age of 20, sophomore forward Hunter Henry regards earning a basketball scholarship as his greatest life accomplishment.

This may not sound remarkable, coming from a guy who stands at 6-foot-8—a premium height for college forwards. But for Henry, few college coaches were knocking at his door.

Coming out of Class 6 Shawnee Mission West in Lenexa, Kan., Henry averaged 17.3 points, 9.4 rebounds and blocked 3.0 shots per game in his senior season. His play did catch the attention of coaches, but in the end, nothing came to fruition.

"I had some Division I mid-majors coming in; to watch practices and games and I just never heard anything," Henry said.

One concern that coaches communicated to Henry was his frame. Entering his redshirt season in 2004-2005, Henry weighed in at 170 pounds.

"That was the big concern. They had concerns

about my durability, trying to stay injury-free and being able to hold my own at the Division I level," Henry said.

Time was running out for Henry. His high school career was coming to a close, so he made a call to then Northwest assistant basketball coach, Darren Vordebruegge and inquired about a visit. Henry had already gotten to know head coach Steve Tappmeyer and his staff.

"I had been up for team camps in the summer, my junior and senior year, so I had talked to the coaches when I came up for those," Henry said.

Tappmeyer said Henry's weight did concern him at first, but his skills and long arms has made him a good fit.

"You always hear people say, 'Boy, if you put 30 pounds on him,' and I'm not sure if he is the kind of guy that is going to do that," Tappmeyer said. "What makes him unique is a lot of guys who have long arms don't necessarily have great hands and he's got great hands. A lot of the stuff we liked about him has come true."

Henry, now at 190, is enjoying a breakout season. He is the only MIAA player that ranks in the Top 10 in three categories averaging 17.5 points (3),

see IMPACT on B4

—MHS BOYS' BASKETBALL

'Hounds hold own against No. 2 team

By Cali Arnold
Community Sports Editor

The Maryville boy's basketball team proved they can play with the No. 1 team in class 2.

At least for one half. Down by only three points at halftime, the Spoof-hounds couldn't hold on to Mid-Buchanan in the second half Tuesday, dropping the contest 74-54.

"I thought even though we lost by 20, I mean my gosh, we're not even rated and you lose to someone who leads the state by 20, that's pretty good actually," coach Mike Kuwitsky said.

A well-executed press breaker helped Maryville stay ahead of the Dragons by as much as 10 in the second quarter. The play of Mid-Buchanan's post players, senior twins Luke and Jesse Engelken, ended up being too much for the 'Hounds.

Hot shooting from the 'Hounds also helped in the first half, but was shut down by a stifling Dragon defense in the second.

Maryville senior John Hart, a 6-4 post player, said playing against the 6-7 and 6-5 opposition was not an easy job.

"It was kind of push and shove with them," Hart said.

see HOLD OWN on B3

NW MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men to take on MIAA's 'cream of the crop'

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

Starting Saturday, the Northwest men's basketball will begin a two-game road trip that will pit them against the top two teams in the MIAA.

"All MIAA teams are good, but we're really getting to the cream of the crop

and we think it's really going to be a measuring bar to see how we compare to everybody else in the league," sophomore forward Hunter Henry said.

Up first is No. 3 Central Missouri. Last season, Northwest lost both games to the Mules in overtime. This season, Central is third in scoring offense and second in scoring defense—trailing only Northwest. Central has four out of five starters that average more than 10 points per game with the fifth starter at 9.2 points per game.

Through Wednesday, Central and No. 7 Emporia State, Northwest's opponent next Wednesday, are the only undefeated teams left in the conference. Central and Emporia were scheduled to play last Saturday but

UPCOMING GAMES
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3:30 p.m., Jan. 20
Last season: sweep series 2-0
Emporia State
7:30 p.m., Jan. 24
Last season: sweep series 2-0
LISTEN: 90.5 FM, 88.9 FM, 97.1 FM 95.5 FM
WATCH: TheMIAA.tv
Cost is \$4 per game

see MIAA on B4

—NW CHEERLEADERS

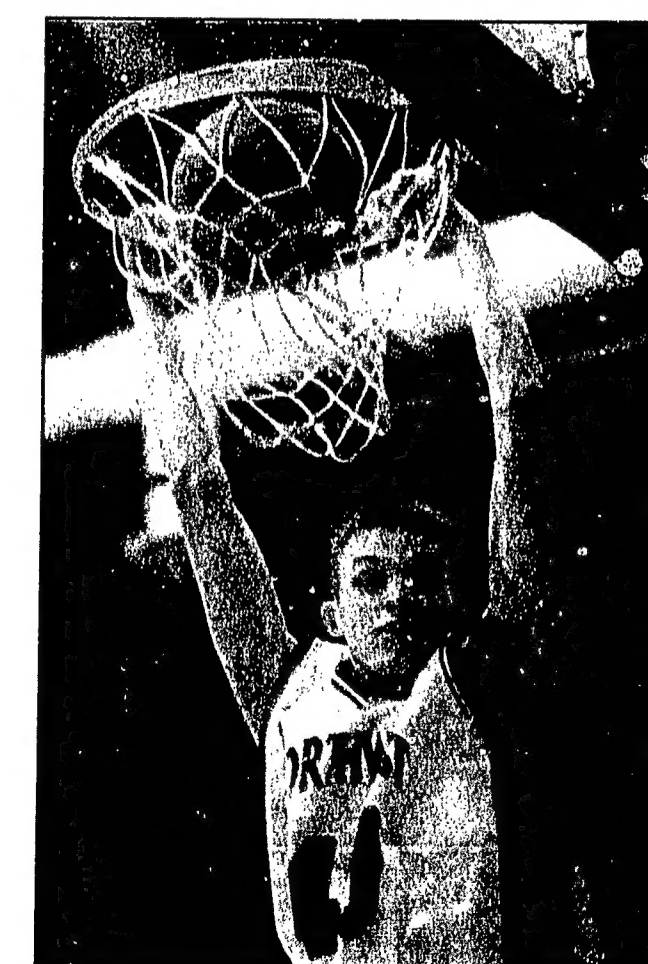
Cheerleaders finish 6th at competition

The Northwest cheerleading squad received sixth place at the Universal Cheerleaders Association 2007 College Cheerleading and Dance Team Championship over the weekend.

The competition was held Jan. 12-14 at the Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla.

Placing first among all MIAA schools competing, the squad received a perfect score in the crowd category. Judging was based from a video submitted by the team from a Bearcat football game earlier this season.

The University of West Georgia won its sixth-consecutive UCA Division II Coed title, and MIAA opponent Pittsburg State finished in seventh place.



AFTER AVERAGING 5.9 points per game last season, sophomore Hunter Henry is averaging 17.5 points for the 'Cats this season.



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NW TRACK

Track gears up for ISU

Adio ties high jump record

By Scott Levine
Asst. Sports Editor

Bayo Adio continues reaching his goals. After a month break, Adio tallied a 6-11 high jump at the Holiday Inn Invitational in Lincoln, Neb., good enough to tie the school's indoor record.

Adio finished second behind Dusty Jonas' 7-1 jump.

"I'm not quite where I want to be," Adio said. "I usually set a higher goal each meet, and now I want to break the school record."

"There's always higher goals, so I will continue to push myself."

Adio and his high jumping teammates fared well at the meet as all four set personal bests. Jacob Dupin placed second in the unseeded high jump with a jump of 6-6 3/4.

Patrick Shaw and Lee Murock also set personal bests for the Bearcats.

Eric Isley placed third in the 800, but finished one second behind the leader. Graduate Assistant Mick Kaufman said Isley's slow start hurt.

"Isley got boxed in at the beginning, so the race didn't go quite as he would have liked," Kaufman said. "He knows he can run faster and if he would have gotten out quicker, he probably would have won."

Courtland Ingram added a third-place finish in the pole vault, while Cliff McIntosh finished fourth. Brandon Schoen added a third-place finish in the shot put and Matt Pohren ran 15:19.79 in the 5,000, good enough for third.

The Bearcats travel Friday

and Saturday to Ames, Iowa, for the Iowa State Open. Kaufman expects football players to compete.

"Our sprinters will be helped with the addition of some of the football players," Kaufman said. "Sheldon Cook, Kendall Wright, Brock Houston, Ike Urum-Eke and Dizeas Calbert are returning and should show us where we are."

The women's team also traveled to the Holiday Inn Invitational last weekend. Lindsay Bierman notched a second place finish in the triple jump, while Emily Churchman placed fourth.

"It wasn't my best weekend, but the team did good," Churchman said. "We have been working hard at putting together our techniques."

Anna O'Brien added another placing for the Bearcats in the one-mile run.

O'Brien finished third with a time of 5:25.38.

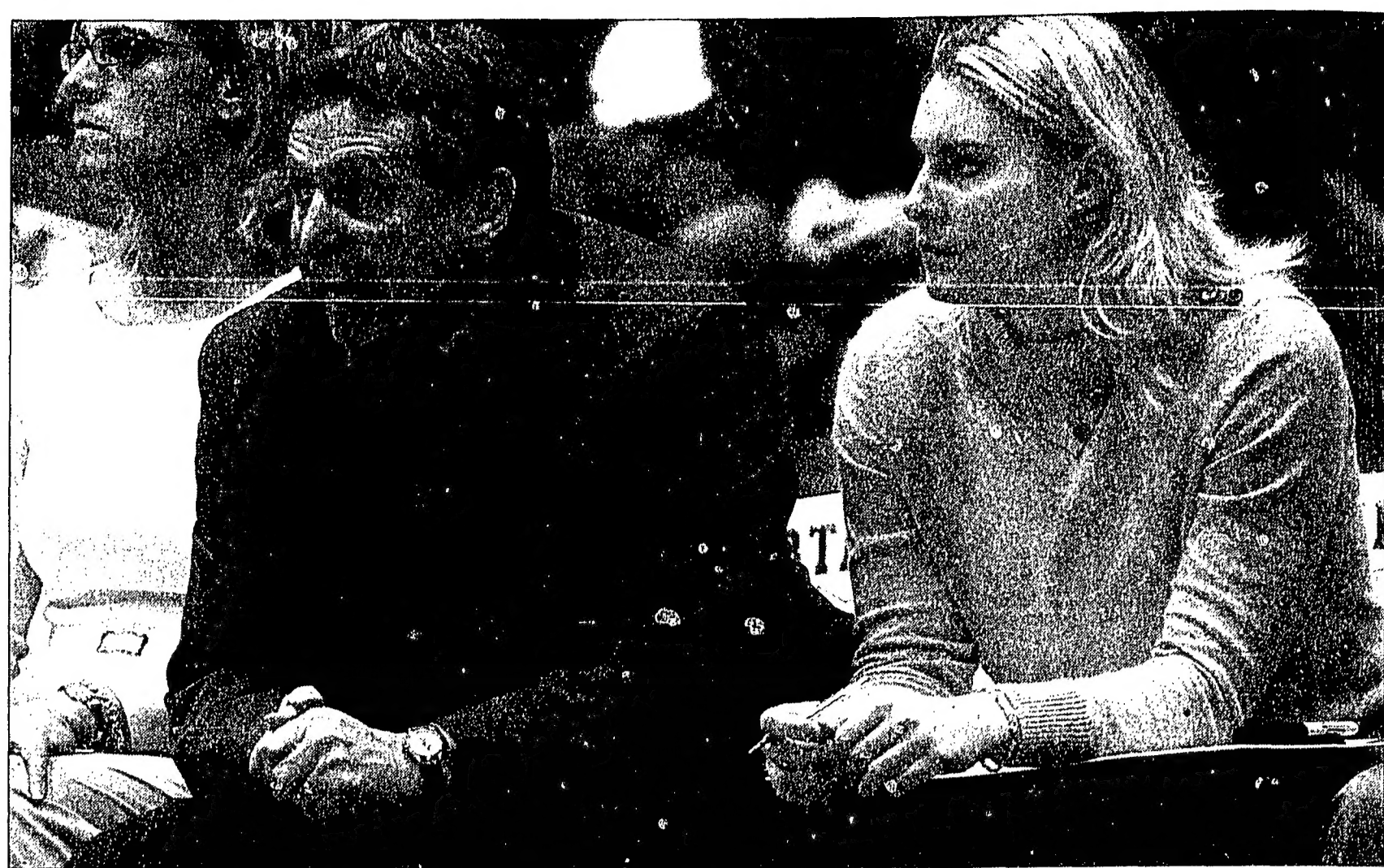
Head coach Steve Lorek said Kelly Rafferty would have finished in the top three in the 600-yard run, but was disqualified. Lorek said he doesn't know the reason for disqualification.

"I think we're going in the right direction," Lorek said. "We're doing the right thing and we're really close to a lot of good things."

The women also travel to the Iowa State Open and Lorek expects tough competition.

"We don't think about other teams," Lorek said. "There will be plenty of good teams at the meet and we can look at ourselves individually."

NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL head coach Gene Steinmeyer reacts to his team's game play during Saturday afternoon game against Pittsburg State University. The Bearcats lost to the Gorillas 68-65.

Shooting woes continue

By Cali Arnold
Community Sports Editor

The worst shooting team in the MIAA has no answers for its shooting woes entering Saturday's game against Central Missouri.

"I don't really know why," junior Lauren Williams said. "I wish we had the answer."

Northwest dropped a conference game to Pittsburg State Saturday after shooting just 30 percent as a team. With only a 36.6 percent average for all conference games, the entire team is looking for ways to put more points on the scoreboard.

Coming out of the loss against Pittsburg State, coach Gene Stein-

meyer said there is a bright spot offensively for the 'Cats.

"The one saving grace we have is all the free throws we've been shooting," Steinmeyer said.

Northwest sits at 75 percent free throw shooting on the season and has outshot its opponents behind the line by 130. Against conference foes alone, the 'Cats have attempted 73 more free throws than the second leading team, and is behind only Missouri Southern and Truman State in shooting percentage.

After facing a tough 46 Truman State team Wednesday (score not available at press time), Northwest must face a Central Missouri team that is sitting in the middle of the MIAA. Steinmeyer said the 'Cats are

in the same position as their foe.

"There's a very fine line between the have and the have-nots, and we're kind of on the border," Steinmeyer said. "My expectations of this team are a lot higher than middle of the pack. If my expectations are going to meet our results, we've got to put a little streak together."

A streak could not come at a better time. Sitting at 3-3 in the conference Wednesday, Northwest could capture back-to-back road victories with wins at Central Missouri Saturday and Emporia State, Wednesday.

The traveling will end when the team returns to Bearcat Arena for three straight home contests against Southwest Baptist on Jan.

27, Emporia State on Jan. 31 and Central Missouri Feb. 3.

Williams said no matter the record of the teams they face, the 'Cats will have to be ready for any conference opponent.

"Our conference is so crazy now, you never know," Williams said. "Anything can happen, anyone can have a great night and the other team can have a bad night."

Winning at Central Missouri will be crucial, Steinmeyer said. While Northwest must improve its shooting, guarding against the quickness and good shooting of the other team is top priority.

"Not many teams win at Central, so it's going to be a real difficult chore," Steinmeyer said.

WRESTLING

Wrestling club eager to prove they belong

By Sam Robinson
Chief Reporter

Being matched against schools with talent pools three times larger doesn't faze the Northwest wrestling club.

In just its second year of competition, the wrestling club is grateful just to be part of a team.

"They're here because they want to be here," coach Chris Schwartz said. "The love of the sport and the love of wrestling. We have nothing to keep them here, just the love of the game."

The wrestling club is in its second year as a member of the National Collegiate Wrestling Association, which includes 126 teams across the country whose universities do not sponsor NCAA-sanctioned collegiate wrestling teams. This total amasses the amount of Division I wrestling programs. Many of the schools in the NCWA had to drop their wrestling programs to comply with Title IX, which says that funding in university athletics must be divided equally among men's and women's sports.

Assistant coach Jeremy Cameron feels that Title IX

has forced universities to choose between wrestling and basketball and the sport of wrestling has really suffered from it.

"Wrestling is deteriorating a lot because basketball is becoming the men's sport for winter and it's not really fair because wrestlers work just as hard as basketball players if not harder at most times and people don't see that," Cameron said. "They look at it as a sport where guys are wrestling with guys instead of a war."

The wrestling club is the only NCWA team in Missouri and belongs to the Southwest conference, which includes traditional Big 12 conference members Kansas, Kansas State and Colorado. Those aforementioned schools more than triple Northwest's enrollment. In its inaugural 2006 campaign, Northwest finished third at the Southwest Conference tournament out of 10 teams.

Schwartz thinks Northwest has a good chance at getting a wrestling program because of the strong tradition of wrestling the Midwest has as a region.

"I think this is a good place for wrestling," Schwartz said. "We've got Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska

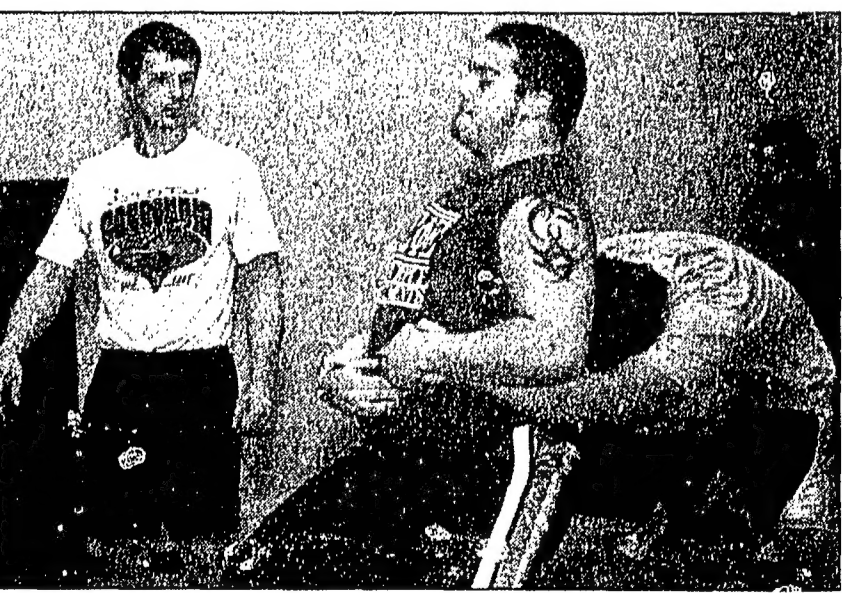
all right there so I think it's a good recruiting place."

Ultimately that is the goal, but we're just happy to compete right now as a club and just hopefully down the road someday our work now will have paid off and it'll be an actual intercollegiate sport."

Last season, Schwartz, a team member at the time, won the conference tournament and finished fifth in the 125-pound division at the NCWA national tournament. This season's team returns two of its national qualifiers from last year in Nick Brent and Aaron Gudde, who will wrestle at 141 and 149 pounds respectively. Another wrestler who has emerged this season is freshman 125-pound Craig Addison. Addison is 5-6 on the year and ranked 39th in the NCWA.

Addison is very confident that his team's training can match any in the collegiate ranks.

"We have a hard work ethic," Addison said. "We're doing as much as any other team out there who are actually NCAA affiliated."



WRESTLING CLUB assistant head coach Jeremy Cameron, who wrestled in Nebraska for York University, coaches Preston Reeves and Brian Shadensack on Tuesday night in the Martindale gym. This is the wrestling club's second year at Northwest.

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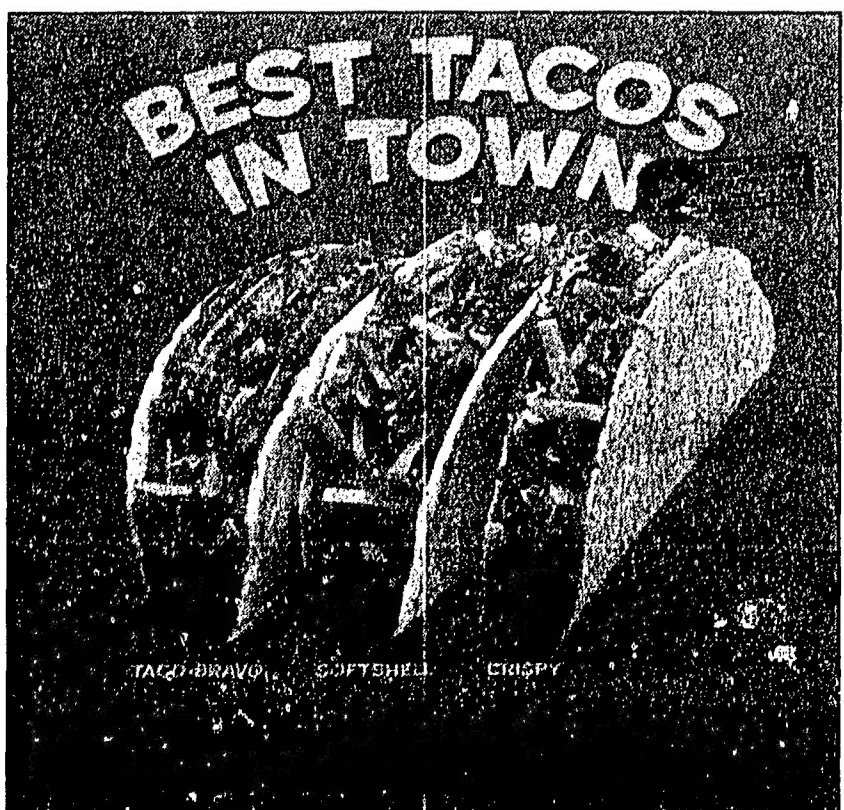
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COLUMN

Brady, Saints exemplify what NFL is about

By Sam Robinson
Chief Reporter



Sam Robinson
Chief Reporter

Last weekend, a player put a team on his back while a team placed an entire city on theirs.

This weekend, Tom Brady has one team in the way of his fourth Super Bowl appearance, while the Saints have one team standing between New Orleans and the most euphoric scene in the city's history.

The Patriots did what few said they could Sunday: topple the 14-2 Chargers in San Diego, something that no team has done this season.

With this latest performance, any conversation regarding the top five NFL quarterbacks of all-time must include Brady. This Patriots team is far worse than any of their three Super Bowl winning teams. They have an inconsistent running game and receivers that the Chiefs would be hesitant to employ and yet somehow Brady manages to come through regardless of who's around him. He is without question the best of this era, and with every postseason win Brady is climbing the ladder into the Elway and Montana realm. He compares more to Elway than Montana because Elway took three average Bronco teams to Super Bowls in the late 80s while I would put Montana's dominant 49er teams up against any dynasty the sport has ever seen. Brady has never had a Jerry Rice or Roger Craig type player on his team. Brady, especially with the current version of the Pats, relies on the likes of Jabar Gaffney and Reche Caldwell, both great receivers, in college. This squad of overachievers is in the AFC Championship game because of Brady.

Even great quarterbacks need a little help. He got it from two Charger fourth quarter personal fouls, and choke artist extraordinaire Marty Schottenheimer. This choke was particularly appalling because you could see it coming. Only one man could manage to blow an 11-point lead with a team this good. Luckily, Brady happened to be playing against that man. Schottenheimer decided to challenge a blatantly obvious Charger fumble that was wasted a vital timeout. The regular season coach was gone. Marty was operating in full-fledged playoff panic mode from that point on. The 2006 Chargers went from Super Bowl favorite to just another team in Schottenheimer's infamous collapse archive. Brady had an average game, but was able to turn it on as San Diego imploded. The great ones always do.

To make matters worse for Marty and the Chargers, NFL MVP LaDainian Tomlinson went after Caldwell at midfield after the game and took a pointless shot at New England coach Bill Belichick in his press conference.

"When you go to the middle of our field and start doing the dance Shawn Merriman is known for, that is disrespectful. They showed no class and maybe that comes from the head coach," Tomlinson said in an ESPN.com article.

I hate to break it to the pro bowl running back, but the Chargers don't have a moral leg to stand on as they have two players starting on defense who've tested positive for steroids in Merriman and Luis Castillo.

If he was upset about the loss, he should've said that. Don't call out at a future hall of fame coach. The Patriots earned the right to celebrate. They flew under the radar all season long and beat the best team in their

house. All that stands between Brady and his fourth Super Bowl title is his playoff whipping boy Peyton Manning and the winner of the junior varsity conference (the NFC).

Though impressive, the Patriots' performance does not rival the Saints' story. What they have achieved despite their circumstances is nothing short of miraculous. The Saints will be going to their first NFC Championship game in franchise history. And they did it with the Hurricane Katrina disaster looming over their heads.

In 2005, the city of New Orleans was the victim of a natural, political and emotional disaster that affected the lives of millions. Thousands of people whose homes had been ravaged sought refuge in the Saints' Louisiana Superdome. The city was lost, its population scattered and in need of some hope.

In 2006, two key events happened for the Saints from a personnel standpoint. One, new coach Sean Payton elected to sign ex-Chargers quarterback Drew Brees instead of injured-reserve bound Daunte Culpepper. Two, the Houston Texans gave them a tremendous gift by passing on Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush and selecting Mario Williams with the top draft pick. These two superstars became the nucleus for a rejuvenated Saints offense. Brees and Bush would contribute significant time and money to the city in the off-season as well as lead the team to a 10-6 mark and the team's first ever playoff bye.

"We felt, every time out we were playing not only for each other and this team, but for the city, the community," Brees said in a Nola.com article.

"I got stopped 20 times a day with people telling me how it helped them go about their day, their lives."

Behind Brees' arm and forgotten RB Deuce McCalister's legs, the Saints are within one game of the Super Bowl. This team was 3-13 last season. No team with that many losses the previous year has ever made it this far. The Saints are not just any team.

"You can write this down," New Orleans resident Al Serpas said to the Denver Post. "If the Saints went to the Super Bowl, this town would party for ten years. Mardi Gras would be a drop in the bucket by comparison."

The Saints will not heal the city. Nothing will completely mend the scars or erase the memories of Katrina. But giving the fans a chance to celebrate wildly and forget about the terrible situations that some of them are in is worth so much.

Sports can bring out feelings of unity and pride in people and those emotions can carry over as the people continue to rebuild their lives.

On the flip side, if the Saints advance, they could face Manning and the Colts. Poor Manning just can't catch a break. His nine-year struggle for that elusive Super Bowl could conclude with him having to play against his hometown team and be the guy who ruined the dream. That could really affect his endorsement value.

With a win Sunday, Brady's quest to be named the greatest quarterback ever will have another chapter. Manning will have his chance to avenge his previous playoff losses and ultimately silence his critics. The Saints will be playing with nothing to lose and their entire city waiting to rejoice and the Bears will be there too.

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MHS WRESTLING

Maryville splits with defending state champ

By Jared Verner
Missourian Reporter

In the opening round of the Plattsburg Tournament last Saturday, the Maryville High School wrestling team pulled the defeat of the defending Class 1 state champion Cameron 45-27.

A scheduled rematch between the two Midland Empire Conference squads saw the result reversed, as the Spoofhounds dropped a 41-30 decision to the Dragons.

"We just didn't have our best effort," said head coach Joe Drake. "It was not a very good outing."

The 119-pound weight class pitted two of the top three ranked wrestlers in Class 1 for the second time in four days. After taking a win by pin last Saturday, top-ranked Kemper Kellerstrass of Cameron needed the entire three

periods to defeat Maryville's Danner Merrill, the state's No. 3 wrestler, 3-0 by decision.

Three other sets that went in the 'Hounds favor on Saturday switched sides. Last Saturday, Zach Scheiber won the 130-pound set, Cliff Robertson the 171-pound set and Tyler Hayse in 215-pound set, but all three saw defeat to Cameron in a rematch on Tuesday.

"We had beaten Cameron on Saturday in a dual at Plattsburg," said Drake. "Then we turn around and lost to the same kids."

At the Plattsburg Dual Tournament on Jan. 13, Maryville went 2-3 with a pair of wins over Cameron and North Platte. The 'Hounds dropped to Brookfield, Chillicothe and host school Plattsburg.

In the first match of the tournament against Cameron, the 'Hounds pulled out a 45-27 win.

Tanner Archer won the 152-pound set in 45 seconds for Maryville over Chris Leach.

The 'Hounds fell to Chillicothe in a heartbreaker 40-39, with Jason Davis leading the way with a win in just over a minute in the 275-pound weight class. Merrill fell in 30 seconds to Bobby Crabtree at 119-pound division.

Maryville dropped a 57-16 match to Brookfield in the mid-way match of the tournament. Merrill regained his form to win a major decision over Brookfield's Jordan Orr 14-4 on one of only three wins for the Spoofhounds.

Maryville rebounded in the next match, defeating North Platte 63-6, winning all weight classes except for the 189-pound division. The 'Hounds' quickest win came in 50 seconds from Tyler Hayse in the 215-pound class. Eight divisions were decided in open forfeit.

Going into the final match against Plattsburg, Maryville had the chance to clinch fourth in the tournament with a team win. The 'Hounds were able to manage wins by fall from Cliff Robertson in the 171-pound class and Jason Davis in the 275-pound class. But the Spoofhounds could pick up sets in the lower weight classes, and dropped 48-30 to the Tigers.

"There was a chance for us to do real well," Drake said. "We're just letting some opportunities slip through our fingers."

The 'Hounds return home tonight to host Platte County in a 7 p.m. match. Five Platte County wrestlers are mentioned in state-wide rankings as of Dec. 31, 2006. "They're the defending state champs (Class 2) and ranked No. 1 right now," Drake said. "It's going to be a very tough night for us. I'm afraid."

HOLD OWN: 'Hounds use loss to prepare for Chillicothe



(above) MID-BUCHANAN'S Jesse Engelken, a 6-5 senior, scored 12 points against the 'Hounds. Jesse's twin, 6-7 Luke, tallied 18 points to help secure the victory. (right) MARYVILLE HIGH School Spoofhound senior Blake Jensen's lay-up gets blocked by Mid-Buchanan Dragon junior Caleb Delaney in the first half of the game held at the Maryville High School. The Dragons defeated the Spoofhounds 74-54.



continued from B2

biggest guys and we don't match in size at all, height or weight."

Mid-Buchanan, not only ranked No. 2 in its class, has suffered only one loss on the season. Kuwitzky said the game Tuesday will definitely help get Maryville ready to play rival Chillicothe on Friday for Midland Empire Conference play.

"It's a big rivalry," Kuwitzky said. "It's going to be a tough game but we're going to move right ahead now and build off of the good things and try to correct the bad."

The Chillicothe matchup Friday will feature the freshmen playing at 5 p.m., followed by the junior varsity and varsity, at Maryville High School.

"It was play a position game, take what they gave you, and just play smart."

The second half was all Mid-Buchanan. Leading 38-35 at the half, they jumped out early and outscored the 'Hounds 36-19 in the final two quarters.

Hart led the 'Hounds with 23 points. Kuwitzky commended the play of both his post players, but admitted the size difference hurt his team.

"Johnny (Hart) here played his heart out—he had a great game," Kuwitzky said. "Blake (Jensen) played good too, but they're our two

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COSTLY Cravings

Some Northwest students are finding out the hard way that nicotine and caffeine can cost them more than money

By Tara Adkins, Lindsay Jacobs
Features Editor,
Asst. Features Editor

Your eyes peak open; you roll out of bed. Before brushing your teeth you reach for the pack of Marlboro's on the coffee table.

After the first cigarette you need a little kick-start to the day so you stop for a latte.

But have you ever stopped to think that kicking those bad habits may help save your health as well as your wallet?

Caffeine, a stimulant, exists naturally in some plants such as kola nuts, tea leaves and cocoa and coffee beans, but can also be made synthetically.

Although manufacturers must include it in the list of ingredients, they are not forced to disclose how much caffeine has been added to a product, according to MayoClinic.com.

Moderate servings of caffeine a day such as 200 to 300 milligrams aren't harmful to most people, but an abundance of caffeine, more than 500 milligrams a day, can cause nervousness, anxiety, irritability, insomnia, diarrhea and headaches.

Northwest Jessica Nelson started her love for coffee last trimester. She drinks a coffee beverage at least every other day.

"Caffeine is probably like anything else, fine in moderation," Nelson said. "I'm not a true addict, but I do like my coffee."

Judy Job, a cashier at Java City in the J.W. Jones Student Union, said the business has regular costumers who come in at least once, if not twice a day.

With some costumers the employees just write the name of the customer on the cup because they have the customer's order memorized, Job said.

A plain brewed eight-ounce cup of coffee contains 135 milligrams of caffeine, while there are 259 milligrams in a Starbucks Coffee Grande (16-ounce), according to American Beverage Association.

"Caffeine may be addictive to college students but it's not a physical addiction, but they say they need it to get them through the day," said Ian Jackson, Northwest freshman and coffee drinker.

A 12-ounce bottle of Nestle sweetened or non-sweetened tea contains only 26 milligrams of caffeine, while there are nine milligrams in all varieties of Lipton Brisk Iced Tea.

Mountain Dew, Diet Mountain

Dew and Code Red Mountain Dew are loaded with the highest count of caffeine milligrams at 55.

If the vast amounts of caffeine bring on too many jitters, caffeine-free soda options can offer the taste of soda without the side effects. Some items include 7UP, Fanta, Sprite and Diet Sprite.

While sodas and coffee may bring the touch of energy needed in the afternoon, energy drinks offer way beyond the boost of both combined.

AMP Energy Drink's 8.4-ounce can has 75 milligrams, while SoBe No Fear 16-ounce energy drink tops the list with 158 milligrams.

Although drinks packed with caffeine can result in several health side effects, also many ignore the empty calories these drinks put on the waistline.

SoBe No Fear includes 260 calories, while Mountain Dew's 20-ounce bottle has 270 calories.

Java City's most popular drink, a 16-ounce caramel macchiato topped with whipped cream, is packed with 460 calories, which is the same as two pieces of pepperoni pizza from Pizza Hut.

Along with the health costs, these caffeine-filled drinks can be costly on the wallet.

A medium Java City caramel macchiato costs \$2.99. For a work week, the coffee addict may spend \$14.95 and

\$224.25 a trimester.

Although caffeine is addictive, smoking strikes up many cravings in some too.

Northwest student Pat O'Connor lights up Marlboro Lights 10 to 15 times a day, but said he's not addicted.

"I can quit now if I want to...if I made the conscience decision to quit," O'Connor said.

With the future in mind O'Connor is determined to quit before he graduates with an education degree.

"I couldn't go in to elementary class smelling like smoke," O'Connor said. "It's not the right thing to do."

The average cost of a pack of cigarettes in Missouri is \$3.43, according to TobaccoFreeKids.org. Smoking a pack a day for a month costs approximately \$102.90 and \$1,251.95 a year. A person can save nearly \$12,519.50 in 10 years being smoke free.

Smokers spend more money for the dentist, dry cleaners, insurance and lose resale values on their cars and home, according to MSN.com.

Not only does smoking burn a whole in your wallet, but it also can lead to serious health problems.

Cigarette smoking and other tobacco forms are addictive because of the drug, nicotine. It is colorless, poisonous, found in the tobacco plant and commonly used as an insecticide, according to the American Heritage Stedman's Medical Dictionary. The

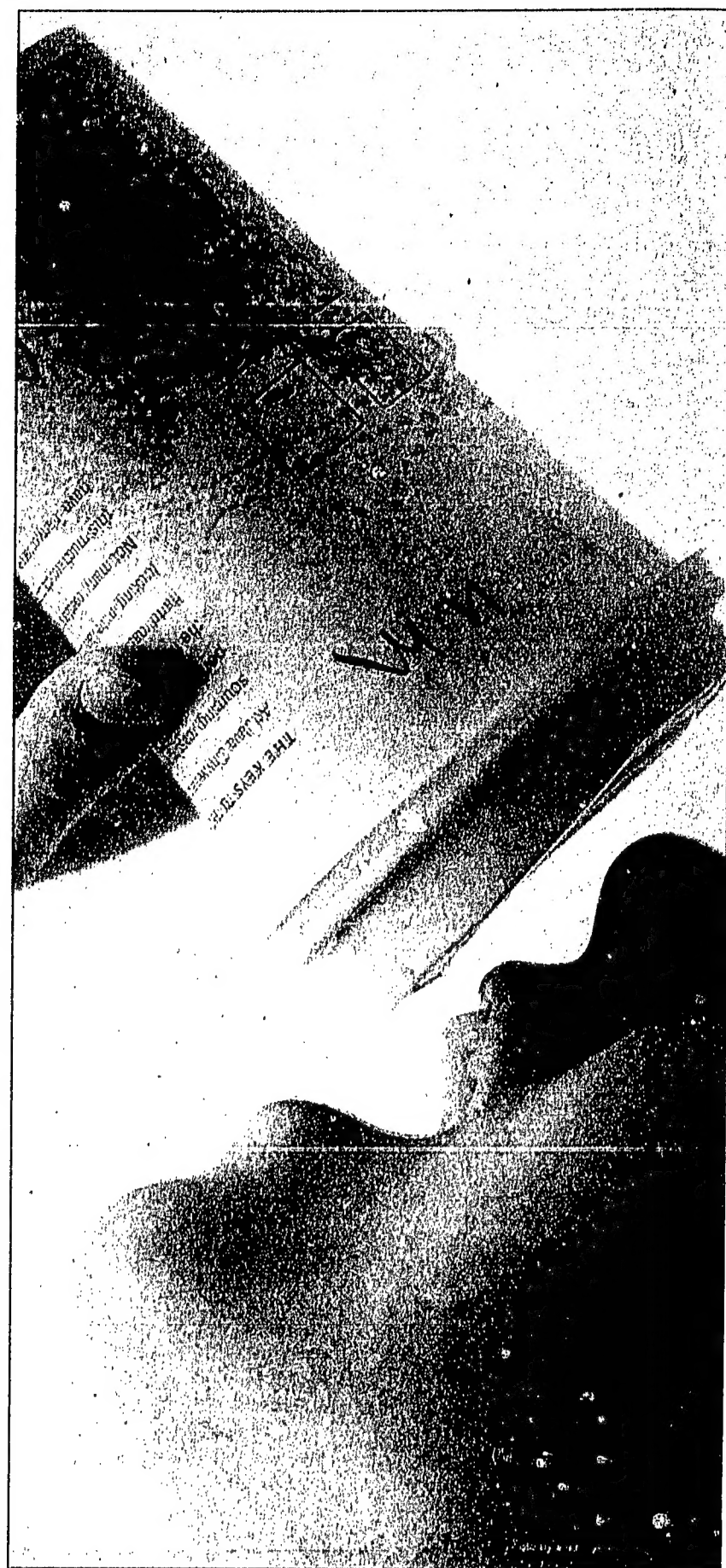
U.S. Surgeon General concluded nicotine addiction compares to cocaine or heroine addiction.

Terri Harr, health education coordinator at St. Francis Hospital and Health Services, said she doesn't discourage people from trying new things in order to quit the habit. Harr gives information packets with different options for people who are trying to quit smoking.

"We know with smoking cessation a lot of people just go cold turkey, and that works," Harr said. "I tend to think to have somebody be successful with smoking cessation, I like them to arm themselves with as many tools as they can."

Within just 24 hours of quitting smoking, the chance of heart attack decreases, according to the American Lung Association. Other benefits of quitting include improvement of taste and smell, decreased risk of lung cancer and an increase in the body's overall energy.

"I tell people their commitment to quit is a reason they are going to be successful," Harr said.



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